

**THE MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY REVIEW  
(NORTHERN IRELAND)**

**TWENTY SIXTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY 31 MAY  
2005, AT 10.00 am, IN THE QUALITY HOTEL, CARRICKFERGUS**

**Present:** Prof Roy McClelland (Chairing) Dr Oliver Shanks  
Prof David Bamford Mrs Maureen McCartney  
Master Brian Hall Mrs Mary O'Boyle  
Mr Bill Halliday Dr Diana Patterson  
Mrs Maureen Ferris Mr Glenn Houston  
Dr Paschal McKeown Mrs Siobhan Bogues  
Mr Roy Keenan Mr Michael Kelly  
Miss Vikki Greenwood

**Apologies:** Prof Alan Ferguson Mrs Marie Crossin  
Mr Patrick Convery Rev Trevor Williams  
Prof Geoff Shepherd Mr Leslie Frew  
Mr Brian Dornan Mr Colin Beck  
Ms Eileen Sherrard Dr David Cameron  
Mr Brendan Mullen Mrs Martha McClelland  
Mr Mark Timoney Mr Nevin Ringland  
Dr Fred Browne Miss Joanne McDonald  
Ms Moira Davren Dr John Owens  
Mr Winston McCartney Mrs Marion Nicholas  
Mr Martin Daly Dr John Hunter  
DCI David Wallace

**Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**

1. Professor McClelland welcomed everyone to the twenty sixth meeting of the Committee. He noted the apologies received.
2. To allow more time for Siobhan Bogues' presentation of the draft final Equal Lives Report, items 3 and 4 of the agenda were swapped.
3. Professor McClelland also welcomed Professor Bamford and expressed the Committee's delight that he has resumed his duties.
4. Bill Halliday was thanked for his work in chairing the last meeting.

## **Chairman's Communication**

5. Professor McClelland drew members' attention to paper **SC 30/05**, Chairman's meetings, which had been issued for information.

## **Note of the last meeting (Paper SC 28/05)**

6. The note of the last meeting was agreed as drafted.

## **Matters Arising**

### **(i) Workforce Issues**

7. No response had been received from the Department on the material the Review had submitted. The Support Team would contact Joyce Cairns and check the position. They would also check if data had been submitted from the Dementia and Mental Health Issues of Older People Committee.

### **(ii) Meeting with Permanent Secretary, Clive Gowdy**

8. Professor McClelland informed members that he, Professor Bamford, Siobhan Bogues and Maureen McCartney had recently had a meeting with Clive Gowdy and Andrew Hamilton. They had expressed the Review's concerns on the need for additional monies to implement its recommendations and their disappointment at not being able to discuss these with Mr Pearson direct.
9. While they have received a sympathetic hearing, there had been no assurances given on extra resources and they had been encouraged to go back to the Permanent Secretaries Group.
10. A key outcome had been advice to formulate strategic priorities from the Review, given that it was reporting through several reports, at various times throughout this year. As a result, Professor McClelland and Professor Bamford were leading on the preparation of such a report, with input from the Convenors. The aim was to have a substantive draft for the summer, which would be passed to DHSSPS.
11. With the Adult Mental Health Report being submitted to the (new) Minister in June, a request for a meeting on this and the Review's resource concerns was being made. Members agreed that a communication and influencing strategy was now becoming important. Meetings with MLAs should be a key element of this over the autumn, when 2/3 reports had been published. The Convenors would discuss this at their next meeting and members were asked to submit any further thoughts.

## Draft final Equal Lives report (Papers SC 29 & 31/05)

12. Siobhan Bogues introduced this draft final report. She advised members that it had been circulated for consultation to stakeholders last autumn and over 80 replies had been received. These had been considered in detail by the Learning Disability Working Committee. An independent facilitator, Harry McConnell, had run a series of consultation meetings across Northern Ireland for people with learning disability and their carers. She thanked him for his work on these. An accessible version of the report was being produced and will serve as an Executive Summary.
13. In discussion on the draft, members suggested amending the title of Objective 8 to, “..... learning disability are supported to age well in their neighbourhoods”.
14. Discussion also covered Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Professor McClelland advised that Eileen Sherrard’s report had been reflected within the Adult Mental Health report. A meeting had been arranged with Rev W McCrea MP in the following week to meet with the PAPA lobby group on ASD. It was important that the Review as a whole was signed up to the issues and recommendations in the ASD report.
15. Siobhan Bogues advised that the Equal Lives Report was in line with the ASD document. However, members stressed that it was important that the Review became proactive and met with relevant groups, such as PAPA, on this issue. It was noted, for example, that some Convenors were still receiving letters on how the Review is dealing with ASD. These meetings could possibly involve some of the Carers’ Group, who had children with ASD.
16. There was also discussion on the use of the first person in the report. Professor McClelland advised that the Adult Mental Health report has used the 3<sup>rd</sup> person; and Professor Ferguson had been advised at a recent meeting to use the 3<sup>rd</sup> person. Members, however, felt that the use of the 1<sup>st</sup> person helped to make the report readable, but that recommendations should be in 3<sup>rd</sup> person. This would be the format for recommendations for **all** reports.
17. The resource/costings issue was discussed. Glenn Houston said that it was important for the Needs and Resources Committee to sign off any figures quoted in reports, especially as costings can go out of date very quickly. Siobhan Bogues said that her Committee had discussed this and agreed against an appendix with costs, as there was an element of speculation about them. Glenn agreed to review the figure quoted at paragraph 12.47.
18. In the wider context, it was suggested that the letter to the Minister accompanying final reports should refer to the costings element. Detailed

costings, however, in every report would not be made available to the public. Minutes of Committee meetings, such as the Needs and Resources Committee, were not put on the website, as they were “work in progress”, but Steering Committee minutes were made available this way, once agreed.

19. What was needed was a statement of the overall estimated costs for each report. Glenn Houston would work with the Convenors on these, as their reports became available. A summary of the Needs and Resources work could go into the Strategic Priorities report.
20. Some interface issues in relation to Equal Lives had still to be finalised. Fred Browne’s Committee is working on the overlap with the Forensic Services. Professor McClelland questioned the timescale quoted in recommendation 46 of Equal Lives, as it did not sit well with the proposed timescale in the Adult Mental Health Committee’s report on this same issue. Siobhan agreed to look at this and was happy to meet Dr Browne, as necessary, on the work he was doing, possibly including Dr Shanks.
21. The question of finance, especially bridging finance, to implement some of the recommendations emanating from the Review was also mentioned. Members were informed that this was a matter for DHSSPS and not for the Review.
22. Professor McClelland thanked Siobhan Bogues and her committee for all their work on the report. This document was now agreed by the Steering Committee, with some minor tidying up work, in line with the comments made.

## **Reports from other Working Committees**

### **Adult Mental Health**

23. The final report is scheduled to be presented to the Minister in mid June 2005.

### **Alcohol and Substance Misuse**

24. The document has been issued for consultation, with responses sought by 29 July 2005. Discussions are ongoing with DHSSPS on its Drug and Alcohol Strategy work. These 2 processes are different, but interlinked, with DHSSPS represented on the Review’s working committee.

### **Child and Adolescent Mental Health**

25. Some further revision work was ongoing. Glenn Houston advised that costing this report is proving difficult as many of the recommendations are aspirational.

## **Dementia and Mental Health Issues of Older People**

26. Work was ongoing and a Committee meeting had been held on 26 May 2005.

## **Forensic Services**

27. A draft is being prepared, which it is hoped to present to the meeting in August.

## **Legal Issues**

28. Brian Hall noted that the second Professor Gunn seminar on 3 June would be highly relevant, not only to the Legal Issues Committee, but to other working committees. It was hoped to bring the outcome of the event to the July meeting. Master Hall advised that the questions which Maureen Ferris had raised about GPs and transportation concerned the current legislation and were not for the Review. He would contact her about these, as she had to leave the meeting early.

## **Mental Health Promotion**

29. Some further revision work was ongoing. It was hoped to have a revised draft by the end of July.

## **Needs and Resources**

30. Work was ongoing on costings for Equal Lives. Then the Committee would move on to the Child and Adolescent Committee and then to the Alcohol and Substance Misuse report. Meetings have been arranged for June, September and November 2005.

## **Social Justice and Citizenship**

31. The 2 Sub Groups hoped to have their draft reports available in August.

## **Overall Priorities report**

32. Professor McClelland advised of plans to produce this final report from the Review, setting out its overall priorities and drawing out common themes for the way ahead. Convenors have been asked to state their Committees' 3-5 priorities for the next 2-3 years and their next 2-3 priorities for years 4 and 5. He and Professor Bamford are working on key themes to emerge from the Review. The convenors will discuss the matter at their next meeting and it is hoped to have a draft report by the end of the summer.

### **Date of next meeting**

33. The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 28 June 2005 at 10.00 am**. The venue has yet to be confirmed.
34. Due to the amount of reports being drafted, members were advised that it is intended to hold a further Steering Committee meeting on **Tuesday 26 July 2005**. Again, the venue has yet to be confirmed.